

Interim House Appropriations Committee  
Representative Jeff Delzer, Chairman  
Representative Keith Kempenich, Vice-Chairman  
October 11, 2021

Chairman Delzer, Members of the Interim House Appropriations Committee:

My name is Michelle Klose and I am the Director of Utility Operations for the City of Bismarck. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the City of Bismarck in support of the Infrastructure Proposal #37 submitted by Senator Poolman.

On behalf of the City of Bismarck, I urge you to consider the use of North Dakota's federal funds received through the federal American Rescue Plan for Bismarck's wastewater treatment plant, lift station, and sanitary sewer interceptor project. The \$50M Bismarck Project involves Bismarck sewer work at the wastewater treatment plant and the Hay Creek lift station and interceptor and includes the \$7 million request from University of Mary. A map of the current and future Hay Creek Sewer Service Area is attached for your reference.

The portion involving Hay Creek lift station and interceptor is needed immediately as the lift station and collection system is currently serving 6000 homes beyond design capacity and with continued development the risk of sewer backups in the lower lying areas increases including impacting the Burleigh County Detention Center and the ND Game and Fish family OWLS pond. This Hay Creek sewer will serve 83% of the new growth coming into Bismarck over the next several years, including medical facilities along the north Highway 83 corridor, new housing developments and the new Silver Ranch elementary school that is coming on line in 2022. The designs are underway and need to start construction is immediate.

The portion involving the wastewater treatment plant is for an equalization basin to handle peak flows to be paced through the plant without increasing all the treatment processes. The increased peak flows are coming from new development and rainfall events. The Bismarck City Commission has recently approved negotiations with City of Lincoln to provide regionalized service to Lincoln as a means to address Lincoln's failing sewer lagoon system. The equalization basin is needed prior to providing this regional sewer service to Lincoln. The designs are underway and the need to start construction is immediate.

The portion involving University of Mary relates to both their water system and sewer system. The water system is insufficient for the needs of their growing campus and for adequate fire suppression support requested by the fire department. This is to serve both the growing needs of the University community and the designation of the campus as an emergency evacuation and command site to support the community and surrounding region in times of need. This is also an opportunity to replace their lagoon system which is causing issues on campus and regionalize sewer service with the city of Bismarck.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Infrastructure Proposal #37 submitted by Senator Poolman. I am happy to stand for any questions the Committee may have.

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City of Bismarck Hay Creek Lift Station & Interceptor, Wastewater Treatment Plant Equalization Basin,  
and University of Mary Water and Sewer Connections Projects Information

